

X-MEN

ISSUE 205



RATED T+



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MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter five

CAREY

MARVEL

BACHALO

MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER FIVE

X-MEN



CAREY
BACHALO

MARVEL
VARIANT
EDITION
205

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DIRECT EDITION

After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion. But a new mutant baby has arrived, the first since M-Day, and with it, hope for mutantkind.

Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

On the day of its birth, the new mutant baby was kidnapped. Cyclops, the leader of the X-Men, dispatched a team to the Antarctic to ambush Mr. Sinister, one of the prime suspects, and his henchmen, the Marauders. At the same time, Cyclops charged Rictor to infiltrate the Purifiers, an organization of mutant-hating zealots also suspected in the disappearance. Unbeknownst to Cyclops, the frustrated New X-Men, young students of the Xavier Institute, attacked the Purifiers at the same time.

Rictor learned the Purifiers did not have the baby, but the good news ended there. Moments later the Reavers, genetically modified mercenaries led by Lady Deathstrike, attacked the New X-Men and gravely wounded Hellion. Meanwhile Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, lies in a coma after sending two of his duplicates into separate futures in search of clues to the mutant baby's history. Layla Miller stowed away on the trip, with no hope of return.

CHAPTER FIVE:

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Tim Townsend: *Inker*
Brian Reber: *Colorist*
Cory Petit: *Letterer*
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Joe Quesada: *Editor in Chief*
Dan Buckley: *Publisher*

Cover A by: *Finch, Miki, Keith*
Cover B by: *Campbell, Avalon Studios, Delgado*

NEW YORK.
EIGHTY YEARS FROM NOW.



MAN.

NICE
PLACE.

IT'S A MUTANT
INTERMENT
CAMP, JAMIE. IT'S
NOT MEANT TO
BE NICE.

JAMIE MADROX
AND LAYLA MILLER

SARDONIC WISECRACKING
IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY IS
A HERO THING. I THOUGHT
YOU KNEW STUFF.

ONLY
STUFF THAT ISN'T
RIDICULOUS.

I NEED TO
GET IN THERE
SOMEHOW.

EASY. WALK
UP TO THE GATE
AND TELL THEM
YOU'RE A
MUTANT.

THANKS, LAYLA.
I WAS LOOKING FOR A
WAY THAT WOULD LEAVE
ME THE OPTION OF
GETTING OUT AGAIN
AFTERWARDS.

WE KNOW IT
WAS A MUTANT THAT
STARTED THIS RACE-
WAR, BUT WE NEED A
NAME. DETAILS.

AND THE RECORDS
IN THAT LIBRARY HAD
BEEN FILLETED.
SOMEONE HAD EDITED
OUT EVERYTHING WE
NEEDED—ALMOST AS
THOUGH THEY KNEW
WE WERE COMING.

COMFORTING
THOUGHT.

NOT SO MUCH.
I WONDER HOW
THE OTHERS
ARE DOING.

WELL,
WIN OR
LOSE--

"--IT'S
ALL ANCIENT
HISTORY NOW."

**XANTARCTICA
NOW.**

X-MEN, YOUR
DESTRUCTION HAD
FALLEN QUITE LOW
ON MY LIST OF
PRIORITIES.

BY COMING
HERE, YOU RUN THE
RISK OF MAKING ME
RECONSIDER.

YOU DO NOT
INTIMIDATE US,
SINISTER, AND YOU
WON'T PETER US.

NO? LOOK
AROUND YOU, STORM.
YOU FACE AN ARMY--
MANY OF WHOM COULD
KILL YOUR ENTIRE TEAM
SINGLE-HANDED.

HOW DO
THE FIVE OF
YOU EXPECT TO
PREVAIL?

WHY DON'T
YOU READ OUR
MINDS, AND SEE
FOR YOURSELF?



YOU MISCOUNTED, MONSTER!
THERE ARE SIX OF US!

**THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING.
WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK**

MAN, ISN'T
ANYONE GONNA
INVADE TODAY?

KEEP YOUR
MIND ON THE
JOB, SLAYTON.

THE JOB SUCKS, LEX.
"LOOK, BUT DON'T
TOUCH"? JEEZ!

AND EVERY
TIME I TRY TO SPY
ON THE GIRLS' DORMS,
THE BLONDE LADY GIVES
ME A STRESS HEADACHE
AND A NOSEBLEED.

I JUST THINK YOU SHOULD
HAVE WAITED, SCOTT, TO
ATTACK THE MARALIDERS
HEAD-ON, YOU NEEDED
ALL OF US.

SINISTER AND
THE PURIFIERS FOUGHT
A PRIVATE WAR TO GET
THIS BABY, BISHOP. WE
HAVE TO KNOW WHY.

WAITING WAS
A LUXURY WE DIDN'T
HAVE. IF YOU WANTED
TO BE IN THE TEAM,
YOU SHOULD HAVE GOT
HERE SOONER.

I TOLD YOU,
I WAS MAKING SOME
INVESTIGATIONS OF
MY OWN. SHAKING DOWN
SOME CONTACTS IN WHAT
USED TO BE THE MUTANT
UNDERWORLD.

I PRESUME
EMMA IS DOING
SOMETHING SIMILAR
RIGHT NOW.

NO. EMMA IS
WITH THE ASSAULT
TEAM.

SHE'S BEEN
PSYCHICALLY LINKED
TO ALL FIVE OF THEM
FROM THE MOMENT THEY
FOUND THE MARALIDER
BASE.

YOU KNOW
HOW SINISTER HAS
ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO
SHIELD HIS PEOPLE
AGAINST TELEPATHIC
ATTACK?

"WELL, IN MY BOOK
A GOOD IDEA IS
WORTH STEALING."

SCRAMBLER
AT TEN O'CLOCK,
'RORO!

THANK YOU,
LOGAN. HE AND
VERTIGO REPRESENT
THE MAIN TACTICAL
DANGERS HERE.



HAMMER
TAKES OUT
ANVIL.

LIKKK!



WHICH LEAVES KURT
FREE TO DEAL WITH THE
STRATEGIC THREAT.

BAM!

GUTEN
TAG, HERR
EXODUS.

DO YOU KNOW
THE SOR RONDANE
MOUNTAINS? THEY'RE
WELL WORTH--







IT'S COMING
APART, SINISTER,
JUST LIKE IT
ALWAYS DOES.

GIVE US
THE CHILD, OR
PEOPLE ARE GOING
TO DIE.

GIVE
YOU THE
CHILD?



ANGEL, YOUR
FEEBLE MISDIRECTIONS
DON'T IMPRESS OR
INTEREST ME. YES, PEOPLE
ARE GOING TO DIE.

YOU HAVE
MY WORD ON
THAT.



SNIKT

NO
STOMACH
FOR A FIGHT,
GAMBIT?

WELL MAYBE
WE CAN JUST SIT
AND TALK.





AT THIS
TIME OF NIGHT, ALL
GOOD LITTLE CHILDREN
ARE TUCKED UP SAFE
IN THEIR BEDS.

SO IT
FOLLOWS THAT
THESE CHILDREN ARE
NOT GOOD AT ALL.



REAVERS--

--BE
SEVERE WITH
THEM.



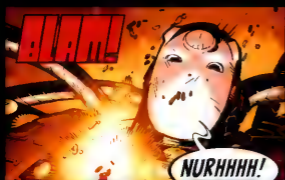
KEEP AWAY
FROM JULIEN
KELLER.

I'M
WARNING
YOU.



NARRHHRR!









SC-SCOTT!
THE STUDENTS--
OH GOD!

EMMA, WHAT
IS IT? WHAT'S
HAPPENED?

THEY--
THEY WENT
TO FIGHT THE
PURIFIERS.

THEY BARELY
GOT AWAY ALIVE.
THAT WAS PIXIE'S
SCREAM INSIDE
MY HEAD.



RICTOR'S WITH THEM.
THE PURIFIERS DON'T
HAVE THE BABY.

WHERE
ARE THEY
NOW?

SPREAD OUT
BETWEEN HERE AND
WASHINGTON. IT WAS
A BLIND TELEPORT,
AND IT ALMOST
KILLED THEM.

I'LL
BRING THEM
IN.



THANK YOU
BOBBY, BUT THAT'S
NOT THE WORST OF IT.
I WAS--DISTRACTED. I
LOST CONTACT WITH
THE ASSAULT TEAM
FOR A MOMENT.

AND NOW
I CAN'T GET
IT BACK.



"SINISTER
IS LOCKING
ME OUT."



BUB, YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THIS HARDER ON YOURSELF. 'CAUSE SOONER OR LATER YOU'RE GONNA RUN OUT OF THINGS TO THROW--

--AND I AIN'T GONNA STOP COMIN' UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHERE THE KID IS.



THE KID? YOU MEAN THE BABY? WHAT ARE YOU--?



WHERE IS SHE, LEBEAU? THINK HARD.



'CAUSE I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE YOUR FIRST ANSWER.



THIS
FARCE IS OVER,
X-MEN.

IT ONLY
REMAINS TO
BRING DOWN THE
CURTAIN--



NUUH!



--TO SCATTERED
AND EMBARRASSED
APPLAUSE.

KLUD
KLUD



KURT, FIND
LOGAN!

WHAT--?

WE HAVE
TO GET OUT OF
HERE. NOW!



BUT
ORORO! IF
I LEAVE
YOU--



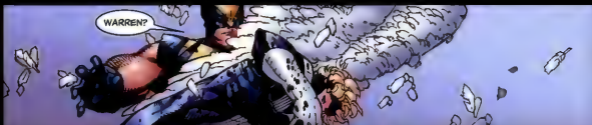
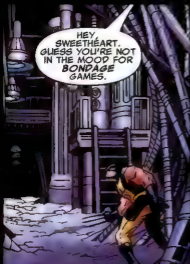
I SAID
GO!



I'll
cover our
retreat.

Whatever
that takes.

BAMF



HIS NAME'S SCRAMBLER,
DARLIN'. AND I THINK YOU
KNOW THAT HIS POWER
HAS TURNED YOURS
OFF.

AND THIS LITTLE
BAIT-AND-SWITCH
ILLUSION WAS
BROUGHT TO YOU
COURTESY OF--

REGAN
WYNGARDE, X-MAN.
RETIRED.



TEHIK

SO HOW'D
YOU WANNA GO OUT?
SLOW AND AGONIZING,
BY ADAMANTIUM
POISONING?

OR SPLATTERED
OVER THE LANDSCAPE
IN A SINGLE GLORIOUS--



BAMF

KLUDD



FWAP





ELF--
REST EASY,
LOGAN. I'LL GET
YOU OUT OF
HERE.
NO!
LISTEN TO
ME!



MARAUDERS--
GHII--DON'T HAVE--
THE BABY!
SHE'S
WITH--



AAAA!



BAM!



YOU
IMBECILE!
YOU MISSED
YOUR SHOT.
HE GOT
AWAY!

DON'T WORRY,
WITH 9MM FLUTED
HOLLOWPOINT--

"--GETTING AWAY
DOESN'T MAKE ALL
THAT MUCH OF A
DIFFERENCE."

BAMF

GAAAAAH!

L-LOGAN!

I
C-CAN'T--

EMMA--
COME IN!

COME IN
IF--YOU CAN
HEAR ME.

I'M HEARING
YOU, LOGAN. WHERE
ARE YOU, AND HOW
DID YOU DO?

DID YOU
RETRIEVE THE
BABY?

NEGATIVE. THE
MARAUDERS DON'T
HAVE THE BABY. ONE
OF OUR SIDE HAS
HER.

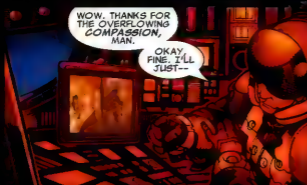
AN X-MAN
TOOK HER FROM
COOPERSTOWN.



HEY, LEX, I'M FEELING
A LITTLE QUEASY HERE.
ANY CHANCE I COULD
CLOCK OFF EARLY?

NEGATIVE,
SLAYTON. ROSTER'S
SHORT ALREADY.

USE YOUR COCKPIT
DIAGNOSTICS. IF
YOU'RE SICK, THE
TECH WILL KNOW.



WOW, THANKS FOR
THE OVERFLOWING
COMPASSION,
MAN.

OKAY,
FINE. I'LL
JUST--



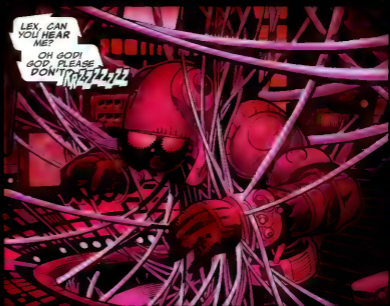
H-HEY!

WHAT'S--?



LEX! LEX,
SOMETHING CRAZY'S
HAPPENING!

HELP
ME!



LEX, CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?

OH GOD!
GOD, PLEASE
DON'T LET
THIS HAPPEN!



THAT MAKES NO SENSE!

IT'S WHAT GAMBIT TOLD LOGAN, AND LOGAN BELIEVES IT.



BUT HE WOULD HAVE CONTACTED US!



WOULD HE? ONLY IF HE SHARED OUR AGENDA, SCOTT, AND IF HE DID, WOULDN'T HE HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE ALREADY?

TO TELL US HE WAS STILL ALIVE?



TELL STORM TO PULL OUT, NOW!

I CAN'T REACH STORM.

BUT WOLVERINE SAYS HE AND NIGHTCRAWLER ARE--



NEW
PROGRAMMING--
ACCEPTED.

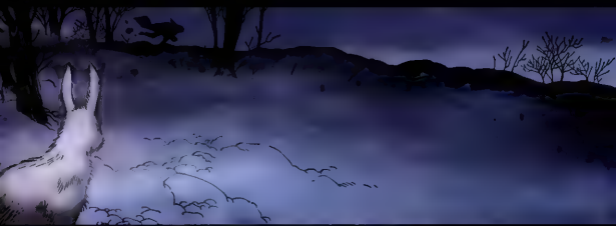
INCAPACITATE--

--IMMOBILIZE--

--NEUTRALIZE--

--DESTROY
THE X-MEN.







ONE
MINUTE BEFORE
DAWN, KID.

WE'RE
DOING
FINE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
UNCANNY X-MEN #499

X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER 6 - UNCANNY X-MEN #493



Next week-
Cable on the run.
A battle at the mansion.
And Cyclops unleashes his secret weapon.



VARIANT COVER

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

EISNER AWARD-WINNING WRITER JEPH LOEB

MARVEL: You're working in two different universes (Marvel U and Ultimate U) on two vastly different properties, the common thread being that they are both coming off best-selling runs. Does the knowledge that both the Hulk and the Ultimates are red-hot and wildly popular right now intimidate you or do you relish the challenge?

JEPH LOEB: I don't do either actually! (laughs). I say this a lot so I'm sure anybody who has read one of my interviews is now rolling their eyes, but I just try and tell the best stories I can and hope folks like them. Some do. Some don't. (I know who THOSE people are!). But I'm incredibly lucky to work with talented folks like Joe Mad and Chris Lichtner, and me and McGuinness go back to when comics were a dime, so it's fun.

MARVEL: You're known for presenting your own unique take on books and characters. How will this hold true to both your take on the Hulk and on the Ultimates?

JEPH LOEB: I'm not sure what my unique take is... Is that good? I hope so! I think what I try to do is get to the core of what made the characters so iconic. With the Hulk, the idea of the rage is within all of us and in Banner's case it got out. It's very timely, very relatable. For the Ultimates, the trick is to tell an Avengers story that's not an Avengers story. When Mark Millar and Bryan Hitch created the Ultimates they had the good fortune that Avengers was the hottest book in the market. So they could LEAD, not follow. Now, Brian Bendis has made my life miserable, so I have to make him miserable by doing stuff that can't or won't be done in the mainstream book. Let's see what happens!

MARVEL: Which do you like writing for more: single-character or team books?

JEPH LOEB: It depends on who is drawing them. I would've killed to get Joe Mad and Chris Lichtner out of retirement, so Marvel made that happen. It's been amazing. On the other hand, when I see Ed's Hulk - it's so grand that it makes me smile. So it's all good.

MARVEL: In the Ultimate U, you are building to a rather huge event in the upcoming Ultimatum storyline. Where does Ultimates 3 fall in this timeline?

JEPH LOEB: Just before it. And while you will understand Ultimatum without reading Ultimates 3, the setup for that story - who makes the Ultimatum and WHY - happens in Ultimates 3. I'm kinda happy how that all turned out!

MARVEL: Similarly, in Hulk, are you setting up a larger storyline or will Hulk do all the talking and smashing for himself?

JEPH LOEB: Ah, clever. No telly you!

MARVEL: Your ability to write for your artist is well-chronicled. What are Joe Mad and Chris Lichtner's strengths that you steer towards? Same as with Ed McGuinness?

JEPH LOEB: Joe and Chris have the ability to draw anything in great detail - and in particular, things like faces and hands do a lot of the storytelling. In the first issue, setting those characters up was very important and I like how Joe and Chris tackle them. McGuinness approaches a page very much like - dare I say it - Kirby would. The camera is usually pushed IN, the action is very IN YOUR FACE. So with the Hulk, it really drives the story.

MARVEL: Your first published work back at Marvel was a run on Wolverine; any plans on returning to the X-Men world?

JEPH LOEB: Hope so! And fortunately, there's some of that going on in the Ultimate U, so I get a lot of juice off that!



'Nuff Said!

QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS!

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR COMIC BOOKS?

"Some get bagged and boarded, all the rest get donated to either a kids-oriented charity or the USO."

- MARC GUGGENHEIM – Writer

(Amazing Spider-Man, Marvel Comics Presents)

"I stockpile them and give them out on Halloween, reasoning that it's better to rot a kid's mind than his teeth."

- PETER DAVID – Writer

(X-Factor, She-Hulk)

"I box them in no particular order into long boxes and file them away... never to be seen or heard from again. I currently have about 40 long boxes in my basement. I dream of one day organizing them... but y'know... I'm sure that'll never happen."

- ROBERT KIRKMAN – Writer

(Marvel Zombies II, Ultimate X-Men)

"I stack them next to my bed until I've read them. Then I stack them in my wardrobe, against the day when I'll put them in long boxes in some kind of order. It's never going to happen."

- MIKE CAREY – Writer

(X-Men, Ultimate Fantastic Four)

"Read them, then drop them in long boxes, as is, no bags or boards and in no particular order. I keep telling myself I'll organize them some day."

- C.B. CEBULSKI – Writer

(Loners, Fairy Tales)

"No bagging, keep some, give some to local kids of all ages! Oh, and I use long boxes to prop up parts of my office!"

- JOHN ROMITA Jr. – Artist

(World War Hulk, Amazing Spider-Man)

"I occasionally read them but mostly they sit in boxes until somebody comes along and says 'Oh look, comics, can I have them?' It's not that I don't like them but that I never seem to have the time to read them. My kids are more into games than comics and if I took them home my wife would hate them cluttering up the house. Simple answer: I stockpile and other people read them."

- BRYAN HITCH – Artist

(Ultimates, Fantastic Four)

"When I get extras, I give them to my cheapskate friends. If I get 1 or 2, I keep 'em for myself."

- LEINIL YU – Artist

(New Avengers)

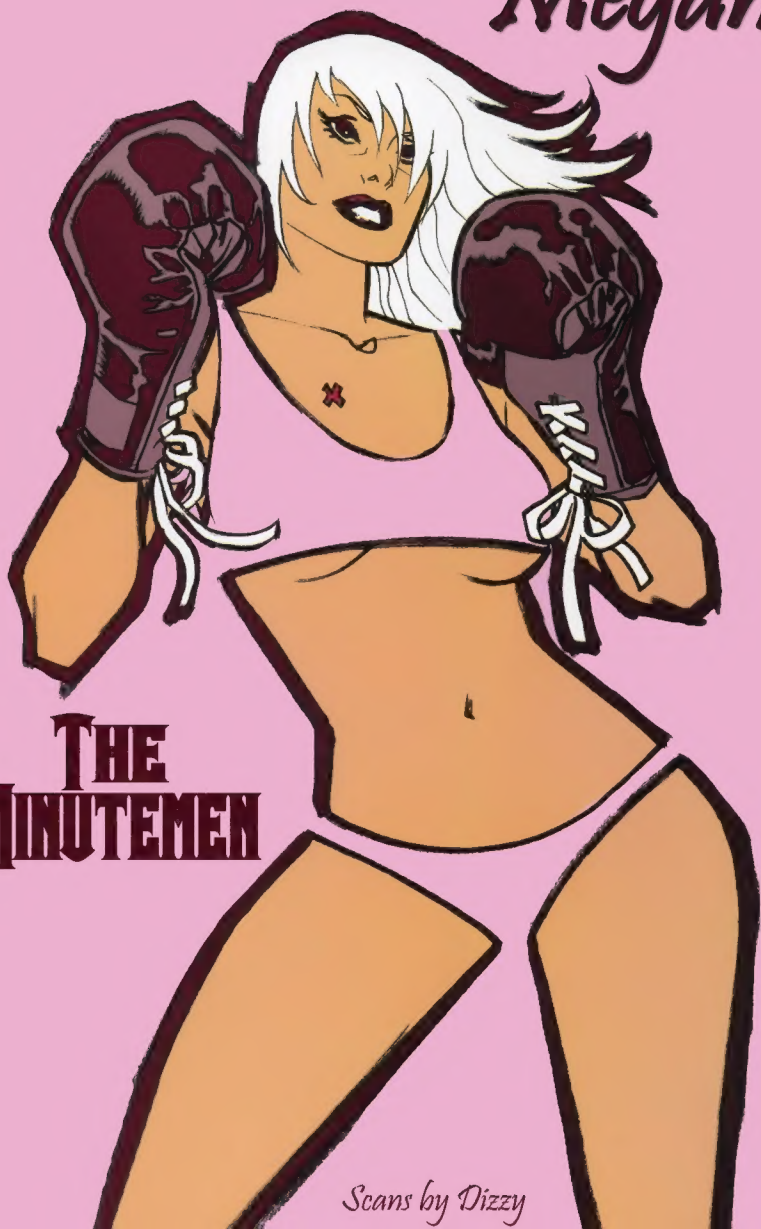
"I give them away to anyone who wants to read them and the ones that I read while outside of my home or office, I pay forward. In other words I leave them in assorted places. Whether it be airport terminals, the train, doctors' offices, anywhere I finish a comic is where I leave it; you never know who may pick it up next."

- JOE QUESADA – Marvel Editor-in-Chief, Artist

(Amazing Spider-Man)

NOW YOU KNOW!

Megan



THE
MINUTEMEN

Scans by Dizzy